Getting Started - Words and Phrases to know!

* **Grizzly** - sprinkled, streaked, or mixed with gray <a *grizzly* beard>
* **Mountaineer** - a person who lives in the mountains
* **Authorities** - facts or statements that are used to support a position or decision **b** **:** persons looked to as experts
* **Flint** - a hard dark quartz that produces a spark when struck by steel
* **Mummified** - dry up and shrivel due to complete loss of moisture
* **Bronze** - an alloy of copper and tin and sometimes other elements (as zinc), which is harder and more durable than copper
* **Weary** - worn out in strength, energy, or freshness
* **Agriculture**- the practice of cultivating the land or raising stock
* **Fleeing** - to run away often from danger or evil
* **DNA map** - describes a variety of different methods that can be used to describe the positions of genes.
* **Predisposed** - someone is likely to have a specific attitude, action, or condition at some point in their future.
* **Thickened arteries** - is a condition in which plaque builds up inside the **arteries**. Plaque is made of cholesterol, fatty substances, cellular waste products, calcium and fibrin (a clotting material in the blood).
* **Ancestors** - a person, typically one more remote than a grandparent, from whom one is descended.
* **Physically demanding** – An activity that requires a person’s body to work very hard
* **Nomadic** - roaming about from place to place aimlessly, frequently, or without a fixed pattern of movement.
* D**escendants** – The word *descendant* refers to something that has come down. For example, everyone is a *descendant*, or the end of a line of ancestors, just as modern art is a *descendant* of past art that contributed to its style and technique.

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| **Question** | **Text (page/paragraph #1)** | **Reasoning/analysis** |
| Where was the Iceman’s body discovered?  What tools/weapons were discovered with Otzi? |  | Why is the location important to historians?  Why is a copper axe such an important item for historians to find? |
| Describe the clothing Otzi wore.  What had Otzi eaten? |  | Why are the contents of Otzi’s meal significant? What food is most important for historians who are trying to understand early man? (why?) |
| What was the original cause of death for Otzi? |  | Why does that theory make sense (consider other things we already know about Otzi)?  If their theory is correct, what else can historians assume about human interaction in Otzi’s time period in Europe? |
| What other health problems Otzi suffered from? |  | What do those ailments tell us about our modern health concerns? |

Otzi "The Ice Man" Revealed

Mar 10, 2012 By [Deepa Gopal](http://www.youngzine.org/page/about-youngzine#Deepa%20Gopal)

It is referred to as the world's oldest murder mystery. In 1991, a German couple hiking off the beaten path in the Oetzal Alps -- a mountain range that separates Austria and Italy, ran into a grizzly find - a skeleton with its upper body sticking out of a melting glacier. At first, they believed it to be the body of a mountaineer, but as authorities continued digging further, they realized this was no ordinary man.

1

Next to the body were a copper axe, a knife with flint-stone blade, a quiver full of arrows, a fire-starting kit, two baskets containing berries and other Stone Age tools. Here was the skeleton of a 5,300 year old man that had been mummified by ice and was very well preserved. He belonged to the Copper Age -- a period in human history between the Stone Age and Bronze Age when copper was used for making tools.

2

The "Ice Man" was named Otzi after the Oetzal Alps where he was found.

**How did Otzi die?**

Based on his fine woven-grass cloak and coat, leggings, leather shoes, and tools he was carrying, scientists conclude that Otzi might have had a respectable social standing in his community. He may have belonged to an agricultural community as there were grains, deer meat and herb bread detected in the contents of his intestine. It also appeared that he had just eaten a big meal. What then was he doing 10,500 feet up in the Italian Alps? Was he a weary traveler who had collapsed from hunger and tiredness?

3

Nearly a decade after his skeleton was discovered, scientists ran into something they had missed earlier in X-ray scans - an arrowhead mark in his left shoulder. The pieces of the puzzle were falling in place. Otzi was likely fleeing his attackers, and just when he thought he had given them the slip and finished feasting on a meal, one or more of them had caught up with him. He succumbed to an arrow, and perhaps died within a few hours.

4

**The latest discovery**

Analysis of the skeleton showed that Otzi was a 5 feet 2 inches tall, 46-year old man with long brown hair and brown eyes. We now know a lot more thanks to a recently completed DNA map.

5

According to scientists, had Otzi not died from an arrow, he would have surely died from heart disease. He was predisposed to a heart condition, and had thickened arteries. This find is very important because so far, heart disease had been thought to be a modern-day condition due to lack of exercise. But it appears our ancestors, who led a much more physically-demanding lifestyle, suffered from it as well.

6

Besides a heart condition, Otzi was afflicted with Lyme disease which is carried by ticks, and was lactose intolerant -- that is, his body could not digest milk. Early nomadic hunters took to farming 5,000 to 10,000 years ago, and it is not surprising that milk which became a stable part of their diet may not have suited everyone. Through his DNA, scientists have also concluded that his closest descendants live in the islands of Sicily and Corsica off the coast of Italy today.

7

Otzi has become the most-studied skeleton, and it is amazing that with every passing decade and scientific advances, we are getting to know him better and better!

8